

New, March. 12th. '37

Happy, happy little I today! How well my last week's abstinence is repaid! Yesterday brought me the budget for Feb. 24th's steamer, & today the letters by the Washington of the week before. Today's were from Sue & Father - Oh, how I rejoiced over a letter from father! Truly I was very sorry that he was suffering from bronchitis & influenza - But take comfort, ye poor sufferers! Yankee influenzas are not so bad as English or French. Our English influenza is quite equal to a little fever I hope the fever may go on bravely under its new influence, and to help it, I am going to send you, dear papa, some cabbage seeds, &c. For the cabbages I have eaten here are not at all like the crasso thing we call cabbage at home, but in truth, a del. scate green - However I don't know how our climate will agree with them - We certainly cannot plant them to have them fresh all winter, as they do - Certainly the herbs do wonderfully and if the Alderney cow should do so well in our climate as here she would be a very valuable animal - But I see much reason why a good breed in England should not do so well with us. At Portici, where the winter is much more severe than here, & Avonine, Herefordshire is generally considered a cold part of England, the cows are in the barn only two months of the year; the rest of the time they are grazing ^{at home,} here they graze out all the year round, & are not obliged to be stable fed at all, except an occasional little mess from at milking - The damp climate & moderate winters keep the grass constantly growing & fresh, so that they find food again as fast as they eat it. It is so very different with us, where they are either stable fed altogether, or ~~cannot~~ be for 6 months, that it must needs make a great difference, to say nothing of climate - And I can easily believe it would take a generation or two to get acclimated. The climate is so entirely different that our English horticultural, or agricultural rules would do for us - French or German would suit us much better -

By the way I wish I could get the seeds of the delicious little turneps they raise in Paris? There must be something in the climate, they are so very much better.

That a just the fugitive slave affair seems to have made! - The travellers
we met this week was quite full of it - Though I regret the violation
of the law, I cannot but be glad the poor fellow got off - I hope
for all trouble for the col. & is over - many thanks for the memorie
which came with the letters yesterday - a nice bundle again, from
Sue, Charles, Mother, Sue Schier, & Aunt Lizzie Putnam - Many thanks,
dear mother, for your charming little notes & postscripts - The piece
of poetry on colds in the head comes most aptly & creatively just now,
dear Sue, for there are great abundance of such things here, & I shall
take it up to edify Miss Procter with tomorrow - How do Gray mourn-
ed over the breaking of the flower vase in the basket from Rotterdam!
I tell them it is a just punishment for selfishness, for as he in-
sisted on buying it for his own particular use & advantage, I told him
he must pay for it with his own money, & so he packed it & sent
it home for himself - See now the results of selfishness! If he had
sent it as a present, it would probably have gone safely - He wick-
edly says he will buy another when he can! - do you have a fancy
ball & the Opera! What gay people you are! People here seem to
think that going twice to the Opera in the season is a great dissipation!
And all such amusements seem much more out of the common
reach than with us - How differently little Pat's nose looks when I
see him again, ^{from} losing his front teeth! - It is one of the first great changes
in appearance, & makes a step well marked in life - I am exceed-
ingly pained at the poor health of Aunt Sally's little ones - It must
be very trying for her -

This letter should rightly be addressed to you, dear Charrie,
but so far, it has gone on in a rambling sort of way addressed to
each in turn - And the journal record of this last week is
rather uninteresting - Friday was not a very pleasant day & so Miss
Wendlow decided to wait for a more agreeable one for the London excursion
- so I wrote a letter to Mrs. Dixwell while waiting to see if she
would come, & then deciding not to lose the day, I determined to
venture forth alone, to go over to Clapham to see the day - After
dressing, I took my way to the 12 o'clock train. I reached Clapham
safely without any adventure, & took a cab (for which I despatched
a small roving rewarder with a penny, & had two rival vehicles
drive up full speed, to dispute the honour of taking me) from Daphne

Station to Tom Ward's - I found Mrs. Ward down stairs, & looking much
better, & Maria with her - And I recollect to have ^{Sixty game after dinner from school,} ~~had~~ ^{Charles & Maria} ~~come~~ ^{come} in from church, or it is sent now, & there is service three
times a week - I had a very pleasant day, & Dr. Gray came over
at 7 to carry me home in the 9 1/2 train - By the way you don't
know how they laugh at that expression "Carry" - which they use only
in its proper meaning of "to bear" - There has been quite an interest
change of command all round lately, & Dr. Keen's is very good
of them, so I wrote Dr. Harvey for some American ones about French
notes: there is a good one the Wards gave me, when do the teeth take
upon themselves the office of the tongue? - When they chatter!
And another, Why is a chicken walking across the road like Gunpowder
plot? - Because it is a fowl foul, proceeding! - He got safely
home by 10 1/4 - Saturday & Sunday were quiet days - I was dull some-
times, & let Dr. Gray go to church alone, but we had a walk in the garden
together in the afternoon - Monday we meant to go to London, but it
rained miserably, so I settled myself to some little necessary things,
such as new lining my portfolio, &c. for I have been very virtuous &
given up my writing - desk - Yesterday however, the sun shone
clear & bright, so we put the long meditated plan into execution -
Miss Wendlow came down here, & as Dr. Gray had sundry little ex-
traneous to do, he accompanied us, & we took the omnibus to town -
First Miss Wendlow & I went to Sir Benjamin Brodie's, for the fell-
care; so I saw that distinguished surgeon, & was not overcome by the
sight either, for I cannot say anything of him which is remarkable, in
any way. Then we went to Swan & Edger's great establishment, where I
got nothing more remarkable than stockings, tapes, &c. & so round &
about, here & there, we went, making a call on Mrs. Gray (where we
dined some weeks ago) & a visit to the John Bazaar, where we lunched,
wrote in - We came back by the 4 1/2 train - I heartily tired & build-
cred & confused, as I always am on coming from London - And I must
say there are many things more easily got at home - For instance
a tooth put into a shell comb without a rivet is a difficult thing to
have done in London, we should soon have such a piece of old fashion as
a rivet! - Then French trimmings of course are not so easily

for they import very little; manufacturing such things; & the English ladies love flounces so dearly that I believe all their trimmings are suited to flounces — On the whole I shall be vastly more contented with things at home; we get what we want, & truly believe, more easily, though we have not so great a choice — And I am surprised to find so little difference in price.

To my great delight I found my letters on getting back; & today another rainy day, I have been quietly busy, & was cheered by the other package at noon. I had a letter yesterday from Aunt E. Lowell, & she said they had just heard from Uncle Charles from Rome — She says they had a gay carnival in Paris, though she thought it a very low spectacle — All well she said —

Friday noon. Yesterday I tried with the Worsins & said the Cousins, is Miss Henson goes tomorrow — ^{then} Dr. Gray & I propose going in to see the Tower, & so far escorted her on her way — Lady Foster came down stairs for a few minutes — Miss Foster seemed much better & was much amused, she, at the present on a cold in the head. — Oh I should have said the Mills arrived all safely last week. Many thanks, dear Will! — And they seem to be highly approved, particularly the pieces, by those we have been initiating into their mysteries — But we looked in vain in London for nut-bicks. — I suppose you would like to know what we mean to do this Spring & summer, & so should I — I think Dr. Gray too busy to spare time for study, & urge him to give it up — He says "no," but I think some day he will say "yes" — At any rate we go to Paris for a while, & with that expectation, please after the next week in April write on thin paper & without envelopes, or rather put two thin letters ^{injected Dr. Gray,} on one envelope, addressed ^{for my} to Brown, Shipley & Co, Liverpool, & pay to them, that is as far as you can pay, they will forward to us — We mean to go to Oxford & Cambridge before Easter — And if we go to Paris shall return here to work in the middle of August — And if anyone has some missions please send them — I will ask Mrs. Glouc, who is now in London, if I see her the price of a bonus — He is the best person I know to ask, dear, &c. — With most affectionate love to all,
I am always lovingly, Jane. —